

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Craig R. White

Serial No.: 09/977,687

Filed: October 16, 2001

Docket No.: 10011785-1

Title: CENTRALIZED BILLING CREDIT SYSTEM UTILIZING A PREDETERMINED UNIT OF USAGE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 21-26 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic transaction recording system for accumulating data from a printer device having an owner and a user, the system comprising:
 - a billing manager which manages ~~[[the]]~~ billing policies for the printer device;
 - a billing system which accumulates information on ~~the occurrence of predetermined events and usage of the printer device by the user~~, generates an accounting of usage based on ~~the accumulated information~~ the information, and associates the accounting of usage with a predetermined unit of usage; and
 - at least one database for ~~storing a user's~~ which stores account information of the user of the printer device in terms of the predetermined unit of usage; ~~[[and]]~~
 - wherein the billing system periodically updates ~~the user's account information~~ the account information of the user of the printer device and issues an accounting of costs to the user, and
 - wherein the billing system credits the owner of the printer device an amount corresponding to the predetermined unit of usage of the printer device by the user.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined unit of usage is a token.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing system further accumulates information on usage of the printer device by the owner of the printer device, and only bills the owner of the printer device for net usage of the printer device, ~~wherein the billing manager includes an apparatus for associating a predetermined number of tokens for each predetermined event and receiving from the printer device the total number of predetermined events that took place at the printer device and determining the token charge and assigning the token charge to an account.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a billing policies database, database which includes billing policies for the printer device such that the printer

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device uses at least one billing policy to determine ~~the cost of each operation,~~ a cost of each operation performed on the printer device.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a mobile access unit coupled to the billing manager, wherein the mobile access unit indicates content to be printed at the printer device.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the mobile access unit is selected from the group consisting of a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a mobile computer.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, further comprising a user configuration unit coupled to the billing polices database for updating and configuring billing polices for new users of the printer device.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing system is selected from a back office billing system and an Internet Settlement Model.

9-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~[[and]]~~ further comprising:
a mobile access unit containing content which is to be printed; ~~[[and]]~~
~~wherein:~~
wherein the system further comprises a plurality of printer devices connected over a network, wherein each printer device can receive the content from the mobile access unit and print the content in response to ~~[[a]]~~ an authorization process; and
wherein the billing manager is coupled to each printer device and the mobile access unit for determining ~~[[the]]~~ an amount of printer usage and associating a predetermined amount of token values with ~~the costs of printing the amount of printer usage.~~ ~~[[; and]]~~
~~the billing system further maintains accounting records of user and associating user account information with the value of the tokens and storing account information in an account records database.~~

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22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising a billing policies database, database which includes billing policies for the printer devices such that ~~[[the]]~~ each printer device uses at least one billing policy to determine ~~the cost of each operation, a~~ cost of each operation performed on the printer devices.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the mobile access unit is selected from a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone, and a mobile computer.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 22~~ claim 21, wherein the mobile access unit transmits using a wireless link.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 22, further comprising a user configuration unit coupled to the billing polices database for updating and configuring billing polices for new users of the printer devices.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the billing system ~~can be~~ either is selected from a back office billing system ~~[[or]]~~ and an Internet Settlement Model.